

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17 and 20-27 are pending herein. Claim 17 has been amended as supported by Fig. 5 of the present application. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The subject matter of cancelled claims 18 and 19 has been incorporated into claim 17.

Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment is proper under Rule 116, because it places this application in condition for allowance without raising any new issues for consideration by the Examiner (i.e., the amendments to claim 17 incorporate the features of cancelled claims 18 and 19).

1. It is noted that the Examiner has not approved the drawings submitted in the Amendment dated April 12, 2005. If the substitute drawings have been entered, the Examiner is respectfully requested to formally withdraw the substitute drawings filed in the April 12, 2005 Amendment leaving the drawings as previously presented.

2. The rejection of claims 17-22 under §112, first paragraph is noted. Regarding claims 17 and 20, the rejection is deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.

This rejection, as it applies to claims 21-22, is respectfully traversed. It appears as though the Examiner is confusing enablement with a species election. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21 and 22 are enabled by the specification. The features of claims 21 and 22 (including a pair of parallel arms, said pair of arms being offset from one another transversely) are clearly shown in Fig. 7 and are described in the corresponding portions of the specification, page 11, lines 4-12. Fig. 5 is clearly a generic side view for other embodiments shown at least in Figs. 6-8, for example. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 17, 18 and 20-22 were rejected under §103(a) over Mutzhaus in view of Abondance '884, Abondance '940 and Guex. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19, which was not rejected in the June 7, 2005 Office Action, has been incorporated into independent claim 17, making claim 17 allowable. Since claims 20-22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the prior art. Furthermore, since independent claim 17 remains generic to withdrawn claims 23-27, non-elected dependent claims 23-27 should be allowed, as well.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

July 26, 2005

Date

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/TE/tlp

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320